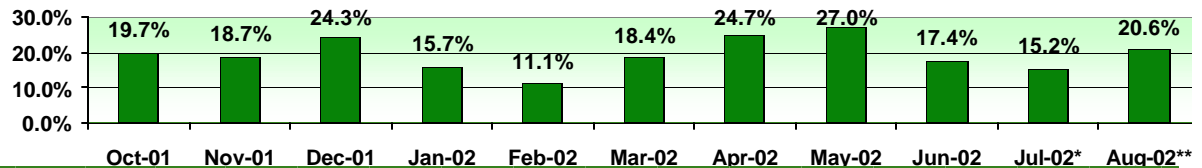


QC/QA NEWSLETTER

FOOD STAMP PAYMENT ERROR RATE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2002



* Readjusted

** Preliminary

QC ERRORS - FOOD STAMPS

SHELTER EXPENSES AND VALID TO DATES

The following error was cited by the California Department of Social Services which resulted in an overissuance of Food Stamps:

An applicant declared shelter expenses in the amount of \$400.00 at intake in July 2002. The case had previously been discontinued in August 2001. The intake Eligibility Worker correctly entered shelter in the amount of \$400.00. However, when the case was authorized and approved, LEADER pulled shelter costs from the terminated case (because the end date for the old shelter costs was missing) and combined it with the current shelter expenses.

In order to prevent this kind of error at intake, Eligibility staff should review the Shelter/Utilities Expense Summary screen and enter the "Valid To" date if needed. Eligibility Supervisors should pay close attention to Shelter/Utilities Expense Summary screen when authorizing the case.

CHILD SUPPORT

Court ordered child support arrearages may be allowed as a deduction even if the previously absent father and child(ren) reside in the home together.

EMPLOYMENT SANCTIONS AND FOOD STAMPS

Numerous errors have been cited in Quality Assurance sample cases where the penalized CW grant was included in the FS benefit computation when a participant was sanctioned for BOTH CW and FS. This is not a EW caused problem; it is a LEADER related issue and a LEADER fix is being implemented to eliminate this type of error effective January 2003. But, all staff should be clear on the Food Stamp policy. According to FS Regulation 63-503.51:

- ▶ When a person who gets FS is being sanctioned ONLY in GAIN and their CW grant drops, Food Stamps should be based on the higher grant amount as if CW was never reduced because the person chose not to cooperate with a rule in the CalWORKs Program.
- ▶ When a person is sanctioned for BOTH FS AND CW, Food Stamps should be based on the lower grant amount, because the person has already been penalized by being taken out of the FS household.



**Management Information
and Evaluation**
12820 Crossroads Pkwy South
West Annex
City of Industry, CA 91746

Phone: (562) 908-5846
Fax: (562) 692-9339
DavidPivazian@ladpss.org